

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3950

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASAP CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJ: SITUATION REPORT: JULY 3, 1974

REF: SANAA 1344

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

1. THIS IS FINAL SITREP FOLLOWING JUNE 13 MILITARY
TAKE-OVER. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE REPORTED ON
A SPOT BASIS.

2. CC CHUURMAN HAMDI WILL HEAD DELEGATION ON OFFICIAL
VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA BEGINNING JULY 7. RELIABLY REPORTED
THAT DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE SHAIKHS ABDULLAH AL-AHMAR AND
SINAN ABU LUHUM, THE FORMER BECAUSE HAMDI WANTS TO PRE-
SENT UNITED FRONT TO SAUDIS AND LATTER BECAUSE HE IS TOO
DANGEROUS TO LEAVE AT HOME. CC MEMBER AND MIN. INT.
MUTAWAKKIL MAY BE ANOTHER MEMBER, ALSO TAIZ MILITARY
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COMMANDER AND ACTING GOVERNOR LTC DIRHAM ABU LUHUM.

3. NEW LIBYAN DELEGATION CONSISTING OF RCC REPRESENTATIVES LTC ABDULLAH HIJAZI AND LTC SAYF QADHAF AL-DAM CALLED ON HAMDI AND PRIMIN AYNI JULY 2. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT HAMDI HAD ACCEPTED OFFICIAL INVITATION FROM QADHAFI TO VISIT LIBYA AT DATE TO BE DETERMINED. PRESS ALSO CARRIES DENIAL BY YAR OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN OF FOREIGN PRESS STORY THAT YEMENI ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNIT AT SANAA AIRPORT HAD FIRED ON PLANE CARRYING FIRST LIBYAN CONGRATULATORY DELEGATION ON JUNE 18.

4. UNUSUAL JOINT COMMAND COUNCIL-PRIME MINISTRY-MINISTRY OF INTERIOR DECREE PUBLISHED JULY 3 FURTHER FLESHES OUT SERIES OF NEW APPOINTMENTS TO KEY POLICE POSITIONS. LTC MUHAMMAD SALIH AL-'ANSI IS NEW DEPMININT IN PLACE FORMER CC MEMBER MUHAMMAD SALIH AL-KUHALI. LTC MUHSIN MUHAMMAD AL-YUSUFI, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY IN TAIZ (LISTED IN EMBASSY PLBRL) HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO CHIEF OF STAFF OF INTERIOR MINISTRY. HEADS OF POLICE COLLEGE, CID, IMMIGRATION, TRAFFIC AND PERSONAL IDENTITY DEPT ALSO CHANGED. NUMBER OF NEW DEPUTY DIRECTORS AND LOCAL SECURITY DIRECTORS (SANAA, IBB, DHAMMAR, TAIZ) WERE NAMED IN COMPANION MIN INT. DECREE.

5. AHMAD NU'MAN AND MEMBERS NU'MAN FAMILY ON JULY 2 RETURNED EARLIER CONDOLENCE CALL OF HAMDI AND CC. IN ELOQUENT PUBLIC STATEMENT, NU'MAN REJECTED ALLEGATIONS THAT PRESENT YARG INVOLVED IN SON'S ASSASSINATION AND SAID THAT HE WAS MEMBER OLDER GENERATION WHICH NOW TURNING POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY OVER TO NEW GENERATION REPRESENTED BY CC. FROM PUBLIC TREATMENT OF MU'MAN IT OBVIOUS CC HAS WELCOMED HIM BACK AS PRESTIGIOUS ELDER STATESMAN WHOSE COMMENTS ADD LEGITIMACY TO REGIME. WE DO NOT BELIEVE NU'MAN CAN REGAIN ANY POSITION OF POWER, BUT HIS WISE COUNSEL WILL BE USEFUL TO HAMDI.

6. KEY DECISION BEING AWAITED FROM HAMDI IS APPOINTMENT TO VACANT HODEIDA GOVERNORSHIP. EX-GOVERNOR SINAN ABU LUHUM IS CONDUCTING ACCELERATING CAMPAIGN FOR RESINSTATE-
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MENT WHICH INCLUDES VISITS TO HAMDI BY HODEIDA DELEGATIONS CALLING FOR SINANA'S RETURN. APPOINTMENT IS SEEN AS TEST WHETHER HAMDI IN FULL CONTROL OR NEEDS TO BEND TO INFLUENCE ABU LUHUM FACTION.

7. COMMENT: PLANNED VISIT OF HAMDI TO SAUDI ARABIA IS PART OF MOUNTING EVIDENCE OF WARM AND BENEVOLENT SAG RELATIONSHIP TO NEW REGIME, DESPITE LATTER'S APPOINTMENT

OF AYNi CABINET. IT SEEMS THAT SAG AT LEAST FOR NOW
BELIEVES BEST WAY TO CONTROL AYNi IS TO MAXIMIZE ITS
SUPPORT FOR HAMDI. RELIABLE LOCAL REPORTS THAT SAG
WAS BEHIND AL-AHMAR'S DEMAND THAT PRESIDENT IRYANI
RESIGN SUGGEST TO US THAT THERE MAY BE SOME-
THING TO SPECULATION THAT SAG AND HAMDI HAD UNDERSTAND-
ING PRIOR TO JUNE 13.
CRAWFORD

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